

ONE WORD ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1 mark each

Q.1. The functioning of executives or laws made by legislatures are checked by the _____ .

Ans. Judiciary

Q.2. In a coalition government, power is shared by different _____ .

Ans. Political parties

Q.3. A federal government is a kind of government under which _____ .

Ans. Two or more than two sets of governments govern the country

Q.4. A system in which one organ of the government keeps check over the other, is referred to as _____ .

Ans. System of checks and balance

Q.5. The two major ethnic groups of Belgium are _____ .

Ans. French-speaking and Dutch-speaking

Q.6. The 'Community Government' of Belgium is elected by _____ .

Ans. Dutch, French and German-speaking groups

Q.7. Name the country where a majority community forces its dominance over others and refuses to share power.

Ans. Sri Lanka

Q.8. The government of Sri Lanka is an example of _____ .

Ans. Unitary Government

Q.9. Which country do 'Indian Tamils' belong to ? [CBSE 2010]

Ans. Indian Tamils belong to Sri Lanka.

Q.10. Which two countries generally speak Belgium ? [CBSE 2011, 2012]

Ans. Dutch and French.

Q.11. Name any two countries with which Belgium share borders. [CBSE 2014]

Ans. France and Luxemburg share border with Belgium

Q.12. Which major social group constituted the largest share in population of Sri Lanka ? [CBSE 2010]

Ans. Sinhalese.

Q.13. What is majoritarianism ? [CBSE 2015, 2016]

Ans. It is a belief that the majority community should be able to rule the country in whichever way they want, by disregarding the wishes and needs of minority.

Q.14. Which country has adopted Buddhism as its official religion ? [CBSE 2014, 2015]

Ans. Sri Lanka.

Q.15. Which language is spoken by the people residing in the Wallonia region of Belgium ? [CBSE 2016]

Ans. French language.

Q.16. Suggest the prudential reason why power sharing is good for democracy. [CBSE 2013]

Ans. Prudential reason emphasis that power sharing as in act will bring out better outcomes.

Q.17. How the division of power between higher and lower level of government is known as ? **HOTS** (Analysing & Evaluating)

Ans. Vertical division.

Q.18. Majoritarianism is followed in which country ? **HOTS** (Analysing & Evaluating)

Ans. Sri Lanka.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS :

3 marks each

[Answers should not exceed 80 words each.]

Q.1. Why was the minority 'French-speaking Community' relatively rich and powerful ?

Or

Describe the tension that existed between the Dutch and the French-speaking people in Belgium. [CBSE 2015]

Ans. This was resented by the Dutch-speaking community who got the benefit to economic development and education much later. This led to tensions between the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities during the 1950s and 1960s. The tension between the two communities was more acute in Brussels : the Dutch-speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but a minority in the capital.

Q.2. Which Act was made by Sri Lanka in 1956 ?

Ans. In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil. The government followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for University Positions and government jobs. A new constitution stipulated that the State shall protect and foster Buddhism.

Q.3. Why were the Tamils of Sri Lanka angry ?

HOTS (Analysing & Evaluating) [CBSE 2010, 2011]

Ans. All the government measures, gradually increased the feelings of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils. They felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders who were sensitive to their language and culture. They felt that the Constitution and government policies denied them equal political rights, discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities and ignored their interests.

Q.4. Which path was adopted by the leaders of Belgium other than Sri Lanka ?

HOTS (Analysing & Evaluating)

Ans. They recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities. They amended their Constitution four times so as to work an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country.

Power
Q.5. Write down the two features of the constitution of Belgium.

Or

Explain any three elements of Belgium model of accommodation.

Or

[CBSE 2013]

Highlight any three measures adopted by the Belgium government to accommodate regional and cultural diversities.

[CBSE 2014]

- Ans. (i) The Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking Ministers shall be equal in the Central Government. Some special laws require the support of majority of numbers from each linguistic group. Thus, no single community can make decisions unilaterally.
- (ii) Many powers of Central Government have been given to the state governments of the two regions of the country.
- (iii) The capital of Belgium, Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation.

Q.6. Explain the moral reasons for power-sharing.

Ans. Power-sharing is the basic spirit of democracy. A democratic rule involves sharing of power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects.

The basic principles of power sharing include :

- (i) Government of different political parties, i.e., a Coalition Government.
- (ii) Protection of minority rights.
- (iii) Decentralisation of power.

Q.7. What is common between Indian and Belgian form of power sharing arrangements ?

Ans. Both India and Belgium have :

- (i) A federal form of government where power is shared among governments at different levels, called the federal form of government.
- (ii) Power in both the countries is also shared among different social groups, such as religious and linguistic groups. 'Community Government' in Belgium and 'Reserved Constituencies in Assemblies in India are good examples of power sharing among different social groups.

Q.8. Describe any three demands of the Sri Lankan Tamils. How did they struggle for their demands.

- Ans. (i) (a) The Sri Lankan Tamils demanded the recognition of Tamil as an official language.
- (b) They demanded regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs.
- (c) Through the formation of several organisations they demand an independent Tamil Eelam (State) in the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.
- (ii) The Sri Lankan Tamils struggle for their demands by launching political organisations.